

March 1, 2001

For more information, contact:

Gary Feland - 406-444-6166

Susan Good - 406-444-6171

PSC TO INVESTIGATE QUESTION REGARDING  
REGULATION OF MPC'S FORMER GENERATION ASSETS

The state Public Service Commission will hold a meeting with its staff as soon as possible to critically review Montana laws regarding the PSC's authority and obligation to regulate the state's energy production.

At commissioners' request, PSC staff is researching the PSC's authority over the generating assets sold by Montana Power Company to PPL Montana in light of the fact they have not been transferred out of the MPC rate base pursuant to a final PSC order. The PSC has not conducted a hearing on MPC's electricity restructuring transition plan.

According to Commissioner Matt Brainard, "This helps fulfill our duty to make sure that we leave no stone unturned in the search for a solution to protect Montana citizens and industry from the current energy crunch."

PSC Chairman Gary Feland added, "Mark my words, there will be a strong solution coming out of this legislative session. The major players from the Governor's office to the Legislature to the Northwest Power Planning Council and to the PSC are all coming together with one aim -- to get this situation under control."

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